

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following **claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7-12, and 14-19** for the pending claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7-12, and 14-19:

A1
Sub B1

1. (Once Amended) A system for reducing congestion in an Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC), the system comprising a network element that comprises:
a filter receiving event notifications from processes within the network element and providing filtered event notifications;
an event counter module coupled to the filter for receiving the filtered event notifications from the filter; and
a performance measurement module coupled to the event counter module for receiving event counter information from the event counter module and sending alarms to the manager.

A2
Sub D1

3. (Once Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein selection criteria upon which the filter selects the filtered event notifications are established by the Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC).

4. (Once Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC) requests creation of event count objects upon which the event counter module creates event count information from the filtered event notifications

A3
Sub D2

6. (Once Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the performance measurement module emits an alarm to the Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC) if the event counter information exceeds a threshold.

Sub B2

7. (Once Amended) A method for reducing the number of event notifications sent to an Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC) by a network element serviced by the OMC, the method comprising the steps of:
filtering event notifications to provide filtered event notifications;

Sub B2
counting the filtered event notifications to generate event count information from the filtered event notifications; and
emitting an alarm if the event count information exceeds a threshold.

8. (Once Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein filtering event notifications comprises the steps of:

receiving the event notifications; and
selecting the event notifications based on selection criteria to provide filtered event notifications.

9. (Once Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein counting the event notifications comprises the steps of:

receiving filtered event notification;
incrementing an event count based on performance measurement definitions for each of the filtered event notifications; and
establishing event count information specific to each of the filtered event notifications based on event count criteria.

10. (Once Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein emitting an alarm when the event count exceeds a threshold comprises the steps of:

comparing the event count information against a threshold;
emitting an alarm to the Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC) if the event count information exceeds the threshold; and
resetting the event count information if an alarm is emitted to the Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC).

11. (Once Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC) establishes criteria for selection of event notifications.

12. (Once Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the Operations and Maintenance

Center (OMC) requests creation of event counter objects having information on thresholding and alarm notification.

14. (Once Amended) An apparatus for reducing the number of event notifications sent to an Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC) by a network element serviced by the OMC comprising:

means for filtering to provide filtered event notifications;

means for counting to generate event count information from the filtered event notifications; and

means for emitting alarms to the OMC.

15. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the filtering means comprise:

means for receiving the event notifications; and

means for selecting the event notifications based on filtering criteria to provide filtered event notifications.

16. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the counting means comprises:

means for receiving filtered event notifications from the filtering means;

means for incrementing an event count based on performance measurement definitions for each of the filtered event notifications; and

means for establishing event count information specific to each of the filtered event notifications based on event count criteria.

17. (Once Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the means for emitting alarms to the Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC) comprise:

means for comparing the event count information against a threshold;

means for emitting an alarm to the Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC) if the event count information exceeds the threshold; and

means for resetting the event count information if an alarm is emitted to the Operations and Maintenance Center (OMC).